GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2767
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
RE-INTRODUCTION OF SUBSIDY FOR FOODGRAINS
Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a Memorandum from the State Committee of All Kerala Ration Dealers Association demanding re-introduction of subsidy for foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints about the quality of foodgrains being supplied through the PDS; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The memorandum received from the all Kerala Ration Dealers Association inter alia states to restore central subsidy for foodgrains supplied to PDS in Kerala, as is given to the North Eastern States/UTs. So far as Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is concerned, the Government has neither withdrawn nor reduced subsidy on the foodgrains being distributed for different categories of beneficiaries under the System.

(c) & (d): Complaints about malpractices including quality of foodgrains are occasionally received. As per the extant instructions, the Food Corporation of India are expected to supply foodgrains of Fair Average Quality under the Targetted Public Distribution System. The representatives of State Governments or their nominees and the FCI shall conduct joint inspection of the stocks of foodgrains intended for issue to ensure that the stocks conform to the prescribed quality specifications. With a view to check such malpractices, the Government has notified the Public Distribution System(Control) Order, 2001 on 31st August, 2001. Apart from this, instructions have been issued to all the State Governments for constitution of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shop, Block, District and State level and involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to oversee the functioning of the TPDS.